IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (currently Amended)   A storage control apparatus comprising:

a data I/O control unit-section, which has a plurality of communication ports each of which is connectable that can be communicatively connected with any of a plurality of information processing apparatuses, is communicatively connected to a plurality of physical disk drives for storing data, receives a data I/O request for data stored in the physical disk drives from the information processing apparatuses via the communication ports, and performs data read/write from/to the physical disk drives in accordance with the received data I/O request;

a first memory storing a data which is read/written among the data stored in the physical disk drives; and

a second memory storing information on management of storage resources including the communication ports, the physical disk drives, and a storage capacity of an area of the first memory allocated for each user using the information processing apparatuses;,

wherein in response to reception of a transmission request of the information on management of the storage resources from a user via a user interface, an identifier of the communication port, an identifier of the physical disk drive, and a storage capacity of the area of the first memory which have been allocated for said user are transmitted to said user interface-, and

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_____ wherein a number of data blocks allocated to each area of the first memory is increased or decreased as needed to provide a set storage capacity of the first memory to each user usable by the user so as not to be affected by use of the first memory by the other users.

2.   (original)   A storage control apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information on management of the storage resources includes:

information representing a first correlation between the physical disk drive and a data amount which can be stored in the first memory among the data stored in the physical disk drive, and

information representing a second correlation between the first correlation and the communication port.

3.   (currently amended) A storage control apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said physical disk drives include of a plurality of hard disk drives constituting an <u>Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disk (RAID)</u>.

4.   (currently amended) A method for controlling a storage control apparatus comprising a data I/O control ~~unit~~ <u>section,</u> which has a plurality of communication ports <u>each of which is connectable</u> ~~that can be communicatively connected~~ with ~~any~~ <u>one</u> of a plurality of information processing apparatuses, is communicatively connected to a plurality of physical disk drives for storing data, receives a data I/O request for data stored in the physical disk drives from the information processing apparatuses via the communication ports, and performs data read/write from/to the

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physical disk drives in accordance with the received data I/O request; a first memory storing a data which is read/written among the data stored in the physical disk drives; and a second memory storing information on management of storage resources including the communication ports, the physical disk drives, and a storage capacity of <u>an area of</u> the first memory allocated for each user using the information processing apparatuses; said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a transmission request of the information on management of the storage resources from a user via a user interface; and

in response to said receiving step, transmitting to said user interface an identifier of the communication port, an identifier of the physical disk drive, and a storage capacity of the first memory which have been allocated for said user-; <u>and</u>

<u>   wherein a number of data blocks allocated to each area of the first memory is increased or decreased as needed to provide a set storage capacity of the first memory to each user usable by the user so as not to be affected by use of the first memory by the other users</u>

5.   (original)   A method for controlling a storage control apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said information on management of the storage resources includes information representing a first correlation between the physical disk drive and a data amount which can be stored in the first memory among the data stored in the physical disk drive, and information representing a second correlation between the first correlation and the communication port.

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6.   (currently amended) A method for controlling a storage control

apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said physical disk drives include a

plurality of hard disk drives constituting an <u>Redundant Array of Inexpensive</u>

<u>Disk (RAID)</u>.

7.   (currently amended) A storage control apparatus comprising:

a channel control unit <u>section, </u>which has a plurality of communication

ports <u>each of which is connectable </u>that can be communicatively connected

with any <u>one </u>of a plurality of information processing apparatuses and receives

a data I/O request for data stored in physical disk drives including a plurality of

hard disk drives constituting an <u>a Redundant Array Inexpensive Disk (RAID)</u>;

a disk control unit <u>section </u>which is communicatively connected to the

physical disk drives and performs data read/write from/to the physical disk

drives according to the data I/O request;

a first memory storing a data which is read/written among the data

stored in the physical disk drives; and

a second memory storing information on management of storage

resources including the communication ports, the physical disk drives, and a

storage capacity of <u>an area of </u>the first memory allocated for each user using

the information processing apparatuses;<u>,</u>

wherein in response to reception of a transmission request of the

information on management of the storage resources from a user via a user

interface, an identifier of the communication port, an identifier of the physical

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disk drive, and a storage capacity of the first memory which have been

allocated for said user are transmitted to said user interface-, and

_____ wherein a number of data blocks allocated to each area of the first

memory is increased or decreased as needed to provide a set storage

capacity of the first memory to each user usable by the user so as not to be

affected by use of the first memory by the other users.

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